

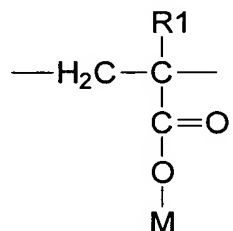
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

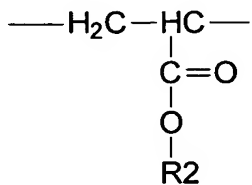
1. (Withdrawn) A polymer comprising side chains of which at least 10 weight-% can be cleaved in alkaline medium at a pH of from 8-14 at 20°C, said side chains being connected to the backbone of said polymer by ester and optionally amide and/or imide groups, whereby said polymer comprises

a mole-% of structural unit A of formula I



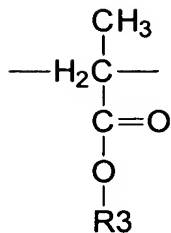
I

b mole-% of structural unit B of formula II



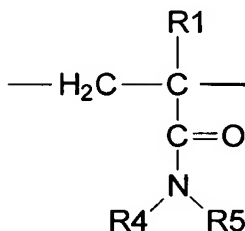
II

c mole-% of structural unit C of formula III



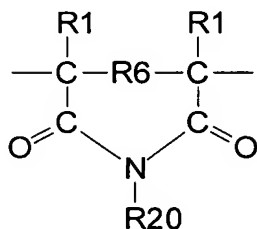
III

d mole-% of structural unit D of formula IV and



IV

e mole-% of structural unit E of formula V



V

wherein each R1 independently from each other represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group or mixtures thereof;

M represents a hydrogen atom, a metallic cation, an ammonium or organic ammonium cation or mixture thereof;

R2, R20 and R3 independently from each other represent a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl- or cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> hydroxyalkyl group or (R7O)<sub>z</sub>R8 in which O represents an

oxygen atom, R7 represents a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> hydroxyalkyl group, or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl group and z represents a number from 1-250, whereby R2, R3 and R20 may be mixtures thereof, and whereby preferably at least 0.5 mole-% more preferred 5-100 mole-% and most preferred 50-100 mole-% of the residues R2 are  $-(R^7O)_zR^8$  with R<sup>7</sup>, z and R<sup>8</sup> as defined above

R4 and R5 represent independently from each other a hydrogen atom or a substituent as defined for R2, and R4 and R5 may form together a ring structure of which N is part of, this ring structure may further contain other hetero atoms like another nitrogen, sulfur or oxygen atom, or mixtures thereof;

R6 is a single bond or a methylene group,

a, b, c, d and e represent numbers where the sum of a+b+c+d+e=100 and b is a number from 10-90, c is a number from 0-85, d is a number from 0-50 and e is a number from 0-10 and a is 100 - (b+c+d+e), whereby a is at least 5, and wherein the sum of e and d preferably is a value of more than 0, more preferably between 0.01 and 50, and most preferably between 0.01 and 2.

2. (Withdrawn) The polymer of claim 1 that contains side chains of formula VI which are connected to the backbone by amide or ester groups,



and wherein O represents an oxygen atom and A<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>1</sup> represent independently from each other a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkylene group and A<sup>1</sup> ≠ B<sup>1</sup> and

R9 represents a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl- or cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> hydroxyalkyl group, or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl group and x represents a number from 1-250 and y represents a number from 0-250 and the sum of x and y is a number of 1-250 and the order (A'O) and (B'O) is random, alternating or blockwise, and wherein said side chains of formula VI, are preferably present in an amount of more than 0.5 weight-%, more preferred 5-99 weight-% and most preferred 50-99 weight-% of the polymer.

3. (Withdrawn) The polymer of claim 1 obtainable or produced by a copolymerising reaction of (meth)acrylic monomers.

4. (Withdrawn) The polymer of claim 1 obtainable or produced by polymer analogues reaction of esterification and optionally amidation and/or imidation of a polycarboxylic acid.

5. (Withdrawn) The polymer of claim 1 comprising 5-90 mol %, preferably 20-80 mol % of structural unit A of formula I; and

10-90 mole-%, preferably 15-70 mole-% of structural unit B of formula II; and 0-85 mol % of structural unit C of formula III; and 0-50 mole %, preferably 0-20 mole% of structural unit D of formula IV; and 0-10 mole-% of structural unit E of formula V.

6. (Withdrawn) The polymer of claim 1 wherein at least 15% of the side groups are cleaved at a pH higher than 12.5 at 22°C within 2 hours.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The admixture of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 14, wherein Polymer A is selected from the group consisting of sulfonated melamine condensates, sulfonated naphthalene condensates, lignosulfonates, ~~substituted maleamid-vinyl copolymers~~ and acrylic or methacrylic copolymers with polyalkyleneoxide side chains, ~~[[or]]~~ and mixtures thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The admixture of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 14, wherein the solid weight ratio of ~~polymers~~ Polymer A to the ~~polymers of claim [[1]]~~ Polymer B is from 0.1:10-10:1~~[[,]] preferably from 1:10-10:1..~~

10. (Withdrawn) A mortar, concrete or cementitious binder comprising the polymer of claim 1.

11. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A mortar, concrete or cementitious binder comprising the admixture of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 14.

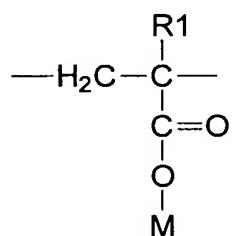
12. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The mortar, concrete or cementitious binder of claim 11 comprising the admixture in an amount of 0.01 to 10 % by weight of the binder, said mortar or concrete having a unit content of binder composition of cement or a mixture of cement and latent hydraulic or inert microscopic powder of 100 to 800 kg/m<sup>3</sup> ~~[[.]] preferably of 250 to 650 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.~~

13. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method for producing a mortar, concrete or cementitious binder of claim 11, wherein the polymer of claim ~~[[1]]~~ B and polymer A are added separately or premixed as admixture in solid or liquid form.

14. (New) An admixture for reducing loss of fluidity of cementitious compositions, mortars and concrete, said admixture comprising:

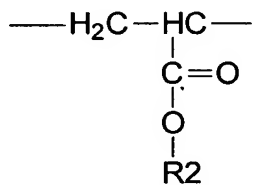
- (a) at least one cement dispersing agent comprising a Polymer A, and
- (b) a Polymer B comprising side chains of which at least 10 weight-% can be cleaved in alkaline medium at a pH of from 8-14 at 20°C, said side chains being connected to the backbone of said polymer by ester and optionally amide and/or imide groups, whereby said polymer comprises

a mole-% of structural unit A of formula I



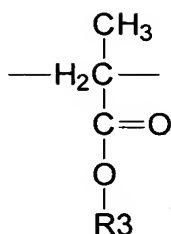
I

b mole-% of structural unit B of formula II



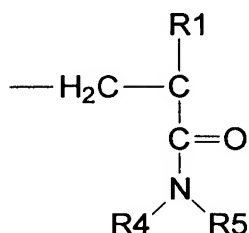
II

c mole-% of structural unit C of formula III



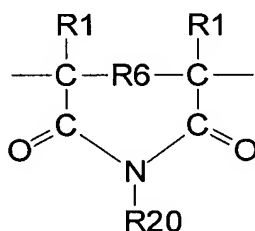
III

d mole-% of structural unit D of formula IV and



IV

e mole-% of structural unit E of formula V



V

wherein each R<sub>1</sub> independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group or mixtures thereof;

M represents a hydrogen atom, a metallic cation, an ammonium or organic ammonium cation or mixtures thereof;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>20</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> independently from each other represent a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl- or cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> hydroxyalkyl group or (R<sup>7</sup>O)<sub>z</sub>R<sup>8</sup> in which 0 represents an oxygen atom, R<sup>7</sup> represents a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkylene group or mixtures thereof, R<sup>8</sup>



represents a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl- or cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> hydroxyalkyl group, or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl group and z represents a number from 1-250, whereby R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>20</sub> optionally are mixtures thereof;

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> represent independently from each other a hydrogen atom or a substituent as defined for R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> optionally form together with the amide nitrogen a ring structure, wherein said ring structure optionally contains at least one additional hetero atom selected from nitrogen, sulfur or oxygen;

R<sub>6</sub> is a single bond or a methylene group;

a, b, c, d and e represent numbers where the sum of a+b+c+d+e=100 and b is a number from 10-90, c is a number from 0-85, d is a number from 0-50 and e is a number from 0-10 and a is 100 - (b+c+d+e), whereby a is at least 5, and wherein the sum of e and d is a value between 0.01 and 50, and wherein 5-100 mole % of the residues R<sup>2</sup> are  $-(R^7O)_zR^8$ , with R<sup>7</sup>, z and R<sup>8</sup> as defined above.

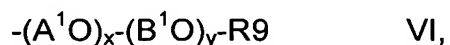
15. (New) The admixture of claim 14, wherein the sum of e and d is between 0.01 and 2.

16. (New) The admixture of claim 14, wherein the solid weight ratio of Polymer A to Polymer B is from 1:10-10:1.

17. (New) The admixture of claim 14, wherein 50-100 mole % of the residues R<sup>2</sup> are  $-(R^7O)_zR^8$ , with R<sup>7</sup>, z and R<sup>8</sup> as defined above

18. (New) The admixture of claim 14, wherein R4 represents a substituent as defined for R2, and R5 represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent as defined for R2.

19. (New) The admixture of claim 14, wherein Polymer B contains side chains of formula VI connected to the backbone by amide or ester groups,



wherein O represents an oxygen atom and A<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>1</sup> represent independently from each other a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkylene group and A<sup>1</sup> ≠ B<sup>1</sup>;

R9 represents a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl- or cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> hydroxyalkyl group, or a unsubstituted or substituted aryl group, x represents a number from 1-250, y represents a number from 0-250, the sum of x and y is a number from 1-250, the order (A<sup>1</sup>O) and (B<sup>1</sup>O) is random, alternating or blockwise, and wherein said side chains of formula VI, are present in an amount of more than 0.5 weight % of the polymer.

20. (New) The admixture of claim 19, wherein the side chains of formula VI are present in an amount of 5-99 weight % of the polymer.

21. (New) The admixture of claim 19, wherein the side chains of formula VI are present in an amount of 50-99 weight % of the polymer.

22. (New) The admixture of claim 14, wherein Polymer B is obtainable by copolymerization of acrylic or methacrylic monomers.

23. (New) The admixture of claim 14, wherein Polymer B is obtainable by esterification and optionally amidation and/or imidation of a polycarboxylic acid.